

For Information, please call:

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Family Court - Juvenile Division

In partnership with:

St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department
UMSL Criminologist (statistician)
Missouri Division of Youth Services
St. Louis Board of Education
Neighborhood Stabilization
Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis
Missouri Children's Division
St. Louis Clergy Coalition
Aldermanic Board

Mission Statement

One of the goals of the Family Court - Juvenile Division is to reduce the overrepresentation of minorities in the juvenile justice system.

In addition, one of the Court's missions is to educate the community as it relates to the juvenile justice system in the City of St. Louis as well as the State of Missouri.



If you need assistance or an accommodation in order to participate in these court services, please contact:
**THE AMERICANS with DISABILITY COORDINATOR,
JANICE KOCH**
at
920 North Vandeventer Ave
St. Louis, Missouri 63108
or by telephone
VOICE (314) 552-2118
TDD (314) 531-6158

Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact



Family Court - Juvenile Division
920 North Vandeventer Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63108

Phone: (314) 552-2000
Fax: (314) 552-2260 (Fax)



Dedicated to Reducing Disparity while
maintaining public safety

What is Disproportionate Minority Confinement?

Disproportionate minority confinement, also referred to as “DMC”, is defined in the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act as existing when “the proportion of juveniles detained or confined in secure detention facilities, secure correctional facilities, jails, and lockups who are members of minority groups . . . exceeds the proportion such groups represent in the general population.” While the language of the JJDP Act specifically refers to juveniles who are “detained or confined,” minority overrepresentation is often a product of actions that occur at earlier points in the juvenile justice system, well before secure placements. A growing body of literature has focused on the problem of selection bias in juvenile justice systems. Much of this literature suggests that processing decisions in many state and local juvenile justice systems are not racially or culturally neutral. Minority juveniles are more likely than other juveniles to become involved in the system. This overrepresentation is apparent at various decision points in the juvenile justice system (arrest, detention, prosecution, and so forth) and may intensify as juveniles continue through the system.

In the year 1999, national data reports that minority youth constituted approximately 32% of the youthful population in the country, yet minority youth represented 68% of the juvenile population in secure detention.

The 1999 Missouri data, compiled by the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association, is very similar to the national data. In Missouri, minority youth constituted about 17% of the youthful population, while minority youth represented 39% of the juvenile population in secure facilities. In Missouri, African-Americans represent 14% of the youth population, while they represent 38% of the juvenile population in secure facilities.

When looking at disproportionality locally, the gap grows. In 1999 in the City of St. Louis, African-Americans constituted 67% of the population between the ages of 10 and 16, while the rate of confinement for this same group was 90%.

Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC) Coordinator

The DMC Coordinator acts as the Court’s liaison with other community agencies, particularly in the effort to reduce disproportionate minority confinement.

The DMC Coordinator along with a host of community leaders are currently researching strategic plans received from across

the country which have been successful in reducing DMC. With the Coordinator leading the way, St. Louis City Family Court - Juvenile Division is developing its own strategic plan for reducing DMC while maintaining public safety.

How can you learn more about the Family Court – Juvenile Division and DMC?

The DMC Coordinator schedules and provides presentations to community groups in order to bring the issue of DMC to the attention of the community.

If your community group, neighborhood association or church group, etc., is interested in learning more about the Family Court – Juvenile Division and its Disproportionate Minority Confinement Reduction Project, please feel free to contact the coordinator:

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